

BECK & BECK

AUTO ACCIDENT ATTORNEYS

Did an Automobile Defect Cause or Contribute to Your Injuries?

In many car accident cases, attorneys do not consider the possibility that a manufacturer's defect could have been the cause of the crash or contributed to the injury. Often, the case is resolved without considering this possibility. All too often, a manufacturing defect is to blame for the injury, but goes unnoticed. This type of case is called a product liability case and is completely separate from a personal injury case. Extra compensation can be recovered for such a case over and above the injury case. The deadline for a manufacturer's defect case in Missouri is two years after the injury, so time is of the essence. If this deadline is missed, you're never allowed to collect anything.

At Beck and Beck, we can help evaluate your case to determine if a manufacturer's defect caused or contributed to the injuries suffered in your crash. Even if you've already settled your auto accident injury case, this is a completely separate part of the incident and is not settled when your accident case is settled.

The most common defects are:

▶ Defective Airbag/No Deployment

An airbag can greatly reduce an injury in a crash, but a defective airbag or deployment failure can cause serious injuries. If you were in a crash and the airbag did not deploy, call us for a free case evaluation. Airbag defects include: Over-powered Inflation, Failure of Adequate Air Bag Testing by Manufacturer, Faulty Crash Sensors, Inflation Failure.

▶ Occupant Ejection

Crash victims that are ejected from a vehicle are over twenty times more likely to suffer severe injuries compared to those that remain inside the vehicle. Laminated safety glass often protects passengers from being thrown from the vehicle and sustaining more serious injuries. Defects in this safety glass can lead to severe injuries and even allow ejection from the vehicle if not properly manufactured or installed.

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➤ Vehicle Rollovers/Roof Crushes

In the United States, over 10,000 deaths and many more serious injuries occur each year due to rollovers, which often result in the roof being crushed. You may think a roof crush is a normal result of a rollover, but it doesn't have to be. Many manufacturers have decided not to install Electronic Stability Control Systems, which would prevent many rollovers

They have done this to save money at the cost of people's lives. Over the past two decades, roof strength has been reduced in order to limit costs. These cheaper and weaker roofs are often the direct cause of major injuries in rollover accidents.

No matter how effective a seatbelt or airbag is in a rollover, the most important aspect is the strength of the roof structure. In many vehicles, the structural integrity of the roof is inadequate, which causes the roof to collapse and often severely injures the passengers.

➤ Vehicle Fires

This may come as a surprise to you, but the majority of vehicle related deaths are due to post-crash fires, not the crash itself. Vehicles are designed not to catch fire after a crash, but often a vehicle design defect causes a fire to occur. There are many possible defects which cause fires, and in some cases, the manufacturers have known about the issue but have decided not to recall the vehicles.

➤ Tire Blowouts/Defective Tires

Manufacturer defects in tires are often not known until a crash occurs due to a blown tire. The tire can look and feel normal, but the manner in which the tire was assembled was flawed. Millions of these tires have been recalled, but tens of thousands are still on the road today. Even if the tire appears in good condition, the age of the tire could make it unsafe for use. Many tire installation locations are not fully educated on the dangers of older tires and install them anyway.

➤ Defective Child Car Seats

Even in low speed crashes, car seats can fail. Children are always the most vulnerable occupants in any crash. Manufacturing requirements for car seats are not as strict as one would expect. In many auto accident cases, a poorly designed car seat is not even considered as a potential cause or contributing factor to a child's injuries. Upon further examination, a defective car seat could have been the major contributing factor or cause of the injuries suffered by the child.

➤ Defective Seatbelts

The use of seatbelts save thousands of lives each year. However, a poor design or manufacturing defect can cause the belts to fail, whereby causing severe injury. The clues which show a belt failure are not always apparent. If someone was badly injured, steps should be taken to determine if a seatbelt failure occurred. If an ejection occurred while the occupant was wearing a seatbelt, a failure likely occurred.

If your crash involved a defective airbag, ejection, rollover, roof crush, a blown tire, a fire, or injuries to a child in a car seat, give us a call for a free case evaluation.

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